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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/789,676

02/27/2004

Peter Kennedy

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, DAVID LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/789,676	Applicant(s) KENNEDY, PETER	
	Examiner DAVID L. LEWIS	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

- 1. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Allport (2001/0030644).**

As in claim 1, Allport teaches of a computer implemented method, figure 1 paragraph 24, comprising:

generating a touch signal with a signet, the touch signal representing a particular signet pattern, wherein the particular signet pattern is the shape of the signet itself or a pattern formed on the signet, **paragraph 24**; fingerprint pattern is said signet pattern

recognizing the particular signet pattern, **figure 1 item 30, paragraph 28**; and

performing an action associated with the particular signet pattern, **paragraphs 33-35**.

As in claim 2, Allport teaches of wherein said recognizing includes comparing the touch signal to one or more signet signals, figure 1 item 30.

As in claim 3, Allport teaches of wherein the action includes opening one or more restricted areas within a computer system, paragraph 34 and 39.

As in claim 4, Allport teaches of wherein the action includes configuring a computer system to a particular user, paragraph 33 and 34.

As in claim 5, Allport teaches of wherein the action is configured to launch a program, paragraph 24, 33-35.

As in claim 6, Allport teaches of wherein the action includes encrypting or decoding a message, paragraph 24, 33-35.

As in claim 7, Allport teaches of wherein said generating includes detecting contact with a touch sensitive device, said recognizing includes comparing the shape of a contact area with a list of signet shapes, and wherein the action is performed when the shape of the contact area matches the signet shape, paragraph 24-35.

As in claim 8, Allport teaches of a computer system, **figure 1**, comprising:

a touch screen that generates signet data associated with a signet pattern when a signet having the signet pattern is placed on the touch screen, **figure 1 item 30**; and

a computer that recognizes the signet data and that initiates an action associated with the recognized signet data, **paragraph 24 and 33-35**.

As in claim 9, Allport teaches of wherein the action includes logging onto the computer system, permitting authorized individuals access to restricted areas of the computer system, loading a user profile associated with a user's preferred arrangement of the computer system, permitting access to web content, launching a program, opening a file or document, viewing a menu, making a selection, executing instructions, encrypting or decoding a message, or operating an input device, paragraph 24 and 33-35.

As in claim 10, Allport teaches of wherein the signet corresponds to a ring, a tag, a card, a token, a stamp, or a key, paragraph 24 and 27.

As in claim 11, Allport teaches of wherein the signet pattern corresponds to the shape of the signet, paragraph 24 and 27.

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As in claim 12, Allport teaches of wherein the signet pattern is formed on the signet, the signet pattern being a raised or recessed portion of the signet, figure 1 item 30.

As in claim 13, Allport teaches of wherein the touch screen is configured with a plurality of sensor coordinates that represent different points on the touch screen, the sensor coordinates activating when the signet is pressed against the touch screen, the activated sensor coordinates representing the shape of the signet pattern, figure 1 item 30.

As in claim 14, Allport teaches of a signet system, **figure 1**, comprising:

a touch sensitive area for placing a signet having a signet pattern, **figure 1 item 30**; and

a detection system for generating a touch signal when the signet is presented to the touch sensitive area and for extracting shape data associated with the signet pattern from the touch signal, **paragraph 24 and 33-35**.

As in claim 15, Allport teaches of wherein detection system includes a sensing device and a control device, the sensing device being configured to register touches on the touch sensitive area and the control device being configured to monitor the touches and to translate the touches into shape data, paragraph, 24, and 27-35.

As in claim 16, Allport teaches of wherein the sensing device corresponds to a resistive sensing device, a capacitive sensing device, an acoustic wave sensing device or an infrared sensing device, figure 1 item 30.

As in claim 17, Allport teaches of wherein the control device includes a sensor controller and a processor, the sensor controller being configured to convert the touches into touch events, the processor being configured to interpret the touch events into shape data and to transmit the results to other components, figure 1 item 10.

As in claim 18, Allport teaches of computer readable medium storing at least computer code executable by a computer, the computer code, **figure 1, paragraph 24 and 33-35**, comprising:

storing shape data associated with one or more signets, **paragraph 34**;

generating shape data based on a signet placed on contact with said touch sensitive device, **paragraph 27-28**;

comparing the generated shape data to the stored shape data, **paragraph 27-28**;
and

performing an action associated with the stored shape data when the generated shape data matches the stored shape data, **paragraph 33-35**.

As in claim 19, Allport teaches of in a computer based system having a touch sensitive device, a shape recognition method, **figure 1, paragraph 24 and 27,**

comprising: providing baseline signet signals, **paragraph 24;**

generating a current signet signal when a signet is placed on the touch sensitive device, **paragraph 27-28, 33-35;**

comparing the current signal to at least one baseline signet signal, **paragraph 33-35;** and

performing an action based on the current and baseline signet signals, **paragraph 33-35.**

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **David L. Lewis** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7673**. The examiner can normally be reached on MT and THF from 8 to 5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala, can be reached on **(571) 272-7681**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-273-8300.
4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner: David L. Lewis

August 18, 2008

/David L Lewis/

Examiner, Art Unit 2629